

Britannia  
Square

*Residents' Association*

# Newsletter

**AUTUMN** 2024

## On-street Electric Vehicle Charging

We need your  
opinion

The BSRA Survey –  
Finding a solution to on-street  
Electric Vehicle Charging  
in our neighbourhood



**W**orcestershire County Council has recently consulted on a new strategy for Local EV Infrastructure, aimed specifically at properties without off-street parking. The BSRA Committee encouraged residents to respond to the Council's consultation and also, given the importance of this issue to local residents, is currently undertaking its own survey.

EV charging will soon be upon us, and we need to find a practical but sympathetic solution which minimises the impact on Britannia Square, Albany Terrace and Stephenson Terrace and keeps the authenticity of our conservation area intact.

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If you haven't already responded to the survey, it's not too late. We appreciate your attention, welcome your comments and suggestions, and look forward to receiving feedback at your earliest convenience so we can co-ordinate our community ideas.

*Thank you  
Britannia Square  
Residents' Association*



## Are you a paid-up member?

**O**f the current 118 households in Britannia Square, Albany Terrace and Stephenson Terrace, 62 are currently paid-up members. Lifetime membership is £30 per household and annual membership is £5 per household. Payment of membership automatically includes your household as a member of our Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, which may enable you to claim a discount on your household insurance. Joining the Association helps us to protect our local environment, to develop initiatives to improve our area and helps us to access local authority assistance and resources on your behalf.

**Also, priority booking for Wine Club tickets!**

**To join the Association please contact Membership Secretary, Miss Ella Blankstone**

## A defibrillator for our area?

### New initiative to raise funds for a potentially 'life-saving' resource

**W**e, that's the BSRA committee, realised the closest defibrillator is at the offices of Quanta Training Limited, by the Swan Theatre, a good four minutes away from most of us.

Therefore, we are on a mission to raise £2,500 for what we think is a vital community project. Our goal is to install a defibrillator outside the United Reformed Church in Albany Terrace. This life-saving device will be accessible 24/7, providing peace of mind for everyone in our area. Together, we can ensure that help is always within reach in times of need.



We have raised some money already, thanks to generous donations, and have promises of more, but will be setting up a website to make it easier for you to give.

In the meantime, bring some cash to the AGM for a raffle ticket or two as we have some excellent prizes already donated which will be useful as Christmas presents.

**BSRA Committee**



## BSRA Kerb Appeal Keep Our Own Frontages Tidy!

**G**iven the vocal consensus around the neighbourhood for RGS Springfield School to address their overhanging tree branches, and for maintaining their surrounding hedgerows for the sake of road and pedestrian safety, reduction in damaging debris, and respect for the Conservation Area – it is our view that we could all contribute to keeping our frontages of the Square and Terraces equally well-trimmed too!



Back in the day, the school gardener, Mr. Bagley, kept the school hedgerows immaculately, using hand shears, which he maintained to the height of 5ft all around (as he was not an especially tall man himself!).

Understandably, in an age where we perhaps prioritise our privacy and security, and with the increasing appearance of closed wooden gates, higher walls and hedgerows protecting our frontages, it seems a great pity that the original notion of a communal neighbourhood enjoying a sense of shared space and openness (and arguably greater security) has become rather lost – along with the sight of several historic street lamp ‘posts’ and a number of cast iron railings hidden amongst the increasing height and thickness of some unruly overhanging Laurel (and other) front hedges. We should all share responsibility to maintain standards within the Conservation Area, and the outer side of our front boundaries shouldn’t be forgotten as being an integral part of our shared public space.

As a community led appeal, and in addition to our annual Spring Street Clean, we would like to encourage residents to maintain their frontages all year round, keeping hedges tidy and neatly trimmed at a reasonable level in line with retaining walls and gate piers, and ideally for the reappearance of any railings that are so distinctive of our Conservation Area.

As a collective effort, if we can also help keep the weeds at bay along the pavement and kerbs alongside each of our own frontages – for the benefit and enjoyment of us all, and in preserving our unique and special neighbourhood.

***Thank you! On behalf of our Britannia Square Residents’ Association.***

# Forthcoming Events

## BSRA AGM & 'Any Questions?'

Friday 8th November at 7.30pm at the United Reformed Church in Albany Terrace.



Everyone living in Britannia Square, Albany Terrace and Stephenson Terrace is welcome to our Annual General Meeting which will be held on Friday 8th November 2024. The meeting will be at the United Reformed Church, Albany Terrace. Drinks (for a cash donation) and nibbles will be served from 7.00pm so that we can start the meeting promptly at 7.30pm. Agenda and reports will be available on our website [here](https://www.britanniasquare.org) nearer the date, along with features about all our projects and initiatives in the 'Residents' Area' and 'BSRA Initiatives' sections at [www.britanniasquare.org](https://www.britanniasquare.org)

After the formal meeting, Helen Cameron from Worcestershire Regulatory Services will talk about noise control, particularly in relation to events held on Pitchcroft. This will be followed by the return of 'BSRA Question Time' - your chance to put questions on local issues to our councillors. The Panel will include Cllr Lynn Denham, City Councillor, Cathedral Ward (also leader of Worcester City Council) and Cllr Simon Geraghty, County Councillor, Riverside Division (also Leader of Worcestershire County Council). We are grateful to our sponsors, Fisher German, who continue to support us this year.

This is your Residents' Association and the AGM is a great way to get together to socialise and exchange views. New neighbours are especially welcome. If you are not already a member, you can join on the evening but please bring cash to pay your subscription (per household - Life £30 or Annual £5). We look forward to seeing you there.

*BSRA Committee*

## York Place Christmas Carols - joint event

Thursday 12th December

This year, in place of holding a Christmas party as in previous years, we are planning to join with York Place Residents' Association for their carol-singing event on Thursday 12th December from 7.30pm. The singing will be accompanied by the Worcester Concert Brass.

*Further details will follow [here](#) nearer the date.*

*BSRA Committee*





# Neighbourhood Watch

## REMINDER:

### Preventing car and vehicle theft

Over the summer, a number of residents reported thefts from their vehicles parked in our area. Also, one vehicle was stolen.

Follow these simple rules to protect your vehicle from thieves.

#### 1. Lock your vehicle

Locking your vehicle, even when parked on your drive, greatly reduces the possibility of it being targeted by an opportunist thief. Even if you have locked your vehicle, check you have not left any windows or the sunroof open.

Do not leave your vehicle running unattended while you de-ice it in cold weather. If someone takes it while it's left like this, your insurer may not pay out.

Additional physical security such as locks and immobilisers are still highly recommended.

#### 2. Keep the keys safe

Vehicles today are by and large more difficult to steal than ever, unless the thief can access your key or fob to clone them. Keep your keys safe, out of view when at home, and away from your front door.

#### 3. Leave your car empty

Do not leave any items on view. Even if a few coins are visible, your car window may be smashed by a desperate thief!

### CONTACT NUMBERS

- If you see someone acting suspiciously around a vehicle, call the Police on 101
- If you have information about any suspected crime, use the online 'Tell Us About' form on the Police website [www.westmercia.police.uk](http://www.westmercia.police.uk)
- If you prefer to pass on information anonymously call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or visit [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)
- If you ever feel at risk, or a crime is in progress, always dial 999.

# BSRA Membership Report

## Autumn 2024

**W**e have welcomed several new residents to our neighbourhood this past year, and also in response to our Spring Survey have increased the Membership of the Britannia Square Residents' Association. Of the current 118 occupied households: there are 58 lifetime members (49%) and 4 annual members (3%); with 49 households (42%) that are non-members, with 7 'lapsed' annual members (6%).

Our appreciative thanks again to all those residents who kindly responded to the Spring Survey. The intention was to open-up discussion amongst all residents of Britannia Square, Albany and Stephenson Terraces, with the aim to better gauge engagement (and indifference) and to better understand the community needs and wishes of all of us living in the neighbourhood, and hopefully encourage more community involvement. Also, it should help us establish where we are going forward as an Association and not just to rely on what has worked in the past. The dynamics of the neighbourhood are constantly evolving, and we need to respond in a way which is as relevant as possible.

We received responses from just a little more than a third (34%) of all households included in the survey. It's a pity we didn't receive a greater response, but perhaps that is indicative of the changing demographic needs of residents with other prioritised commitments – rather than indifference as a reason. Most respondents were our seasoned supporters, but it is pleasing to hear from several new households with some inspired ideas and initiatives, thank you!

Thank you as well to all those who offered their willingness to help organise and support where and how they can. BUT... little else can be instigated without active volunteers to get YOUR ideas off the ground, and essentially there is need for more support, involvement and participation from neighbours. If we can please ask for additional proactive organisers and enthusiastic helpers to come forth... and for those others simply to participate where possible!

Joining as a member is a symbolic gesture whereby the resident acknowledges the aims of the Association. Like many similar organisations, benefits are not always tangible. The membership subs help pay for the website, venue hire, leaflet printing etc. Membership of the Association essentially provides a platform to voice and add clout to all our community

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concerns and interests – and should include more of all residents’ suggested ideas and initiatives, which would be very much welcomed – so please use it, don’t lose it!

We encourage attendance of all residents to our sociable gatherings. This year, in response to demand for tickets to attend our ever-popular Wine Club events, we are having to give priority booking to the current Membership in the first instance before opening up the opportunity to the wider neighbourhood of non-members. We offer annual Membership (£5 per household) if more palatable to consider for this purpose.

Another benefit of membership is our corporate membership of **Worcester Civic Society** which entitles BSRA Members to attend talks at the members' admission rate (when a charge is made). Some meetings have been publicised via the 'B-SquOSH' WhatsApp group, and previous newsletters, but only a few people have ever taken advantage of this perk. Details of Civic Society events can be found at Worcester Civic Society : A Vision for Worcester If you are not already familiar with the interesting content of the Association website, we urge you to visit our dedicated website [www.britanniasquare.org](http://www.britanniasquare.org) – that has become a very comprehensive resource of neighbourhood matters, which also highlights the reciprocal benefits to us all today, and importance in safeguarding support ongoing into the future.

So, by way of contribution and in support of joining as Members of the Association (without need to have to actively participate), please contact either myself, or any other member of the committee in the first instance.

Thank you.

**Miss Ella Blankstone** (Membership Secretary)  
ellablankstone@talktalk.net 07951 460070

## Planning Applications (changes since last Newsletter)

Date of application	Address	Proposal	Status
<b>2023</b>			
November	45A Britannia Square	Change of use of a house (use class C3) to a doctor’s surgery (use class E) (i.e. extension to Albany House surgery)	Refused
<b>2024</b>			
May	Springfield, Britannia Square	Construction of 6m diameter timber-framed reciprocal roof roundhouse within 'Forest school'	Approved

BSRA tries to comment on all applications, when consulted. However, residents should comment directly on the City Council’s planning website, if they would like to raise concerns or support any application.

[www.worcester.gov.uk/planning/planning-application-search](http://www.worcester.gov.uk/planning/planning-application-search)

## Remembering Michael Hudson

by Angela Lanyon, 5/9/2024

So sad. A long farewell  
Michael Hudson's left.  
Not dead, but moved to Colchester  
He leaves his friends bereft.

He was a beacon to the Square  
For forty years or more,  
We wished him Happy Birthday  
In song at his front door.

His patient presence kept the peace  
At problematic meetings.  
And when you met him walking round  
There were always friendly greetings.

When he was playing for the choir  
Our carol singing sounded best,  
And though he never vaunted them  
His music skills impressed.

A gracious English gentleman,  
Long resident of The Square,  
Our fondest wishes follow him,  
May he be happy there.

**Michael Hudson** lived for many years on  
Britannia Square and was an active member  
of the community and Residents' Association.  
More of Angela Lanyon's work may be found [here](#).



## BSRA Committee

### Current Members

**John Ball** (*Wine Club Chairman*)

johnball1@btinternet.com

50 Britannia Square

**Ella Blankstone** (*Membership Sec.*)

ellablankstone@talktalk.net

The Old Coach House

**Ann Cowper**

annferrier@gmail.com

20 Britannia Square

**Robin Dallaway** (*Website & Newsletter*)

robindallaway@gmail.com

7 Albany Terrace

**Carol Inman**

csinman4@gmail.com

4 Stephenson Terrace

(*Secretary, Neighbourhood Watch & Highways*)

**Nicky Neville-Lee**

nnevillelee@hotmail.com

30 Albany Terrace

**Tracy Scott** (*Treasurer*)

scott.tracy59@yahoo.co.uk

52 Britannia Square